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Personnel

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2 October 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Personnel

VIA: Chief, Liaison Division/OLL

FROM:
Liaison Division/OLL

STAT

SUBJECT: Legislative Agenda for 99th Congress:
Personnel Issues (Memorandum #3 this topic)

How Will Federal Employees Fair in the House in 1985

1. It can be anticipated that the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee will continue to be the strongest force in Congress in enacting legislation that affects Civil Service employees. It can be expected also that this Committee will retain a pro-Federal employee bent in the 99th Congress.

2. The membership of the Committee will not change significantly. Two outgoing members who lost their primary elections are Katie Hall and Tom Corcoran. Connie Mack is now maneuvering to switch from this Committee to another. All of the members who are up for election this year are expected to win. Only two members have voted against Federal benefits with consistency: Mack because he is a fiscal conservative; and, William Dannemeyer, who is conservative and votes with the Administration. Dannemeyer is a likely candidate to introduce any Administration proposal for a Supplemental Retirement System or to change the current Civil Service System.

3. Chairman William Ford will continue to work for legislation that benefits Federal employees.

During the last two years, Chairman Ford and Senator Ted Stevens have worked well together on Civil Service legislation. Since they chair the Committee and Subcommittee (Stevens is Chairman, Civil Service Subcommittee, Senate Governmental Affairs Committee) that will draft retirement legislation, their relationship would

increase the chances of a House/Senate agreement on the legislation in 1985. If Senator Stevens were to succeed Baker and leave the Subcommittee, it is unlikely that Ford would find anyone with whom he would be willing to work closely. (The Senate will vote on its leadership on 28 November.)

Federal Employee Health Benefits

4. Contrary to the views of the Staff Director, House Post Office and Civil Service Committee, the Committee will take up health benefit legislation next year, according to staffers who are close to Mary Rose Oakar. Representative Oakar, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Compensation and Employee Benefits, plans to pursue the following next year:

H.R. 656, introduced by Oakar on 6 January 1983 is intended to increase the Government contribution rate, to extend coverage for employees who are separated due to reductions in force; to require carriers to obtain reinsurance or stop-loss insurance (or to otherwise demonstrate financial responsibility), to assure adequate mental health benefit levels and otherwise limit benefit reductions, to mandate an open season each year, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1517, introduced by Congressmen Norman Dicks and Samuel Stratton on 17 February 1983, would open the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program to additional employee organization plans. I attended a 2 October 1984 hearing on this bill and will report on it separately.

5. In addition, it can be expected that the Administration, assuming reelection, will again push for its "voucher proposal," introduced by Congressman Dannemeyer on 4 August 1983 as H.R. 3798.

6. On the Senate side, it is anticipated that Senator Ted Stevens will want to reintroduce S 2027 which calls for changes in benefits, types of plans offered, government financial and oversight responsibilities, eligibility and plan administration.

7. The Office of Personnel has studied each of these measures and it can be expected that this effort will pay off. Because the bills will carry the legislative history of the 98th Congress, movement next year will be easier.

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